

April-Dec. 2014

Local Chapter News

Hello again!

Well I had to dust off the keyboard and get busy with the last newsletter as this year has just flown by. It has been a very busy year for the chapter again this year. Our vendor day in May was a huge success. Tom Warren, Marty Ferguson, and Tom DeMuse were our guest speakers. We had about 46 Vendors and 120 attendees to the show. We held our annual cable games and once again the Aberdeen squad went home with the team win.



THANK YOU TO OUR "TECH TALK" PRESENTERS

Tom Warren /  CLEARFIELD

Marty Ferguson /  FS3

Tom DeMuse /  aurora NETWORKS

David Nash was our overall winner of the cable games and being such had a paid trip to the National cable expo in Denver Colo. He qualified to compete at the National Cable games and took 14th place. Congrats David!! We also take the top 4 individuals as a team over to the North Country Show in Oct. They were David Nash, Ryan Lynch, Dan Langness and Tony Hyder. They went over and won the show. Great showing from our chapter!



We followed up the Vendor show with trainings on Return Path Shooting with Mark Ortel and Network Testing with Phillip Kazakov.

Dakota Territory Donates:

For the past two years our chapter has donated to two charitable organizations.

➤ **Cathy Oakes Foundation**

The Catherine Oakes Memorial Leadership Scholarship for Women will recognize and reward women who currently are or aspire to become cable engineering or operations professionals. The scholarship may be used toward registration in an industry development program or an executive education program, including the SCTE-Tuck Executive Leadership Program and the SCTE-Georgia Tech Management Development Program.

➤ **SCTE FOUNDATION**

SCTE Foundation SCTE further its mission of increasing the technical, business and leadership skills of the telecommunications engineering workforce, attracting and recruiting women and minorities into an engineering career, and positioning the telecommunications industry as a desirable career opportunity for aspiring young people in the early stages of their careers.

This year we donated to a new charity.

➤ **Mitchell Robotics Program**

It is the goal of the SCTE organization to expose kids at a young age to the technology and engineering field in hopes that one day they will choose our industry as their career. One of the great ways to do this is through the robotics program. Josh Renken is the SCADA instructor at MTI and is in his 2nd year of taking a high school team to robotics competition and in his first year with a JR. high team. We as a board felt this program and the kids it involved was a great investment. Below is a short write up about the program from Josh.

We play a game with VEX robots called Skyrise and each year the game is changed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJ-5H3JVtPs>

The competition is open for middle and high school students.

Mitchell robotics has 4 teams total, 3 high schools and 1 middle school.

We were able to write grants to acquire almost all of the robotic equipment itself and money acquired from sponsors is entirely used for travel costs to and from events.

Events are held in Groton (2), Eureka, Harrisburg, Rapid City and Mitchell (2)

So far this season a Mitchell team has been part of the winning alliance for all 4 events, with the high school teams winning 2 and the middle school team winning 2.

Upcoming events will be Jan 17th in Groton, Feb 7th in Mitchell at MTI and Feb 28th will be the state finals in Mitchell at MTI

3 teams will advance from the state finals to the world competition to take on 430 teams from around the world.

This will be held in Louisville Kentucky.

Students are judged on design innovation, teamwork, sportsmanship and excellence (basically all of the categories together)

Mitchell Robotic sponsors are MTI, Innovative Systems and the Dakota Territory Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers

We hold our practices at MCTEA (Mitchell Career and Technical Education Academy). We do this to get students into the building to help them see and understand what kinds of things go on there, especially the middle school kids. Our hope is that they will take classes at MCTEA and from there move on to a tech school of their choice, hopefully MTI. We feel that competitive robotics gives kids a chance to compete on a nonphysical level and still have the same thrill and excitement. Teams are required to keep an engineering notebook through the season so that they can accurately account for the design of their robot. All sketches, calculations and ideas are kept in the notebook to show proof of the engineering process. Students on the team do all of the design, build, programming and driving themselves.



(Michael Benjamin, Brian Hanson, Cherri Olson, Josh Renken and Jeremy Ebsen)

Dakota BOD elections:

We held our annual elections in December. We welcome two new board members Greg Paulson and Richard Grosz. We also welcome our longtime friend Bill Davis back. Eric Steele step down to an associate member and we would like to Thank him for his many years of service and look forward to his continued input.

We also want to say a huge Thank You to Pat Davis who also stepped down as he took a job with Alpha in Phoenix. We wish him and his family the best of luck.

Hertel to take charge of Vendor Day 2015:



Jay Hertel will be taking charge of the 2015 Vendor show in Sioux Falls SD. He has been hard at work already lining up meeting spots, vendor show floor, motels and putting his committees together for the show. It will be at the SF convention center on May 21st. So mark your calendars to come join us. Stay tune for more updates to follow.....

Thank You:

I wanted to close this newsletter with a shout out to a guy who I have the utmost respect for. He contributed to our chapter tirelessly and selflessly for many years. Without his guidance and leadership I do not think we would be as successful as we

are now. George Bosak left us in October to pursue a career with Alpha technologies in Texas.



We held a dinner to say Thank You to him for his hard work and wish him and Jina the best of luck in Texas. His longtime friend Bill Davis wrote a fitting letter to him that follows....

A Tribute to Albin “George” Bosak

Life is never really a storybook description as we would like it to be. This is especially true with the many “characters” we have all been introduced to and existed within their space for a short time or an endless duration . . . or, so it seems. We have all traveled down a road projected by a plot – a string of events that takes us from the beginning of the story to the end. While on this road, we are all bound by destiny and by the strong influence of others.

There are the stereotypes: the wonderful parents, the tough coach, the wise and relentless teacher, or the arrogant employer that pulled at our boundaries and defined what we would become. But, what about the positive light that a friend, a colleague, a fellow worker and/or committee member and a leader had on our own personal growth? How will any of us be able to express the gratitude we all have that George Bosak was just that strong and positive influence in our growth as a character in a very impelling story set in the prairies of South and North Dakota.

Similar to the buffalo depicted in our Dakota Chapter’s logo, George was a strong and devoted leader to our chapter and to the excellence of the technology we represent. He led his “herd” to achieve shining examples of what SCTE chapters should stand for and to influence others to always do their best! But, George did not stop at the boundaries of the Dakotas . . . he extended his leadership to a region and to the whole National organization of the SCTE. His term was shortened by a need to walk on different paths and strongly influence – no doubt - different characters. But for all the things and the people he touched while he was among us . . . that will

live forever in our hearts, our minds, and our own work ethic. Our passion moving forward is to extend the values of that leadership and that of the principles of the SCTE to everyone.

And, we will never forget all those e-mails!

And, so George, we bid you farewell, God's fortune and peace shall be with you. Our thanks are numerous in all that you are and were to us. Your colleagues are better people, your fellow chapter members are grateful and just damn smarter, and your friends will always carry your strength in our hearts. The most important thing I can say to any one in any industry, in every facet of life, to any character in a story; meet and observe and see the goodness . . . emulate the passion, as in a man like George Bosak. Thank you, George!

From our family to yours....

Merry Christmas and **Happy New Year!!**





Technical Trails

